

CUPS Assessment of Diabetic Emergencies		
Category	Assessment	Actions
Critical	Signs of high blood sugar together with signs of late shock; signs of low blood sugar and AVPU=U	Give high-concentration oxygen; provide initial interventions and transport simultaneously; call for ALS backup if available
Unstable	Signs of low or high blood sugar together with signs of early shock and AVPU=P or V	Give high-concentration oxygen; provide initial interventions and call for ALS backup to give IV glucose; transport as soon as possible
Potentially unstable	Signs of low or high blood sugar OR mechanism for low or high blood sugar; AVPU=A	Give high-concentration oxygen; give oral glucose if child is able to swallow; begin focused history and physical exam; transport for further evaluation
Stable	Normal initial assessment with no signs of high or low blood sugar	Complete focused history and physical exam; transport if necessary

Based on CUPS Assessment Table © 1997 N. D. Sanddal, et al. Critical Trauma Care by the Basic EMT, 4th ed.

■ **TRIPP HANDOUT**

Assessment Findings in Diabetic Emergencies		
Assessment	Low Blood Sugar	High Blood Sugar
First impression	Normal or decreased responsiveness Normal or pale skin; sweating Normal or agitated mental status	Normal or decreased responsiveness Flushed, reddish skin
Breathing	Normal or shallow, rapid breathing	Normal or deep, rapid breathing, like sighing Breath odor fruity or like nail polish remover
Circulation	Fast pulse rate Strong peripheral pulses Normal or slow capillary refill time Normal or cold, pale, clammy skin	Normal or fast pulse rate Normal or weak peripheral pulses Normal or slow capillary refill time Warm or hot, flushed skin
Focused history	Rapid onset Took too much insulin Ate less than usual Increased exercise Headache Dizziness Sweating Seizures Nausea	Slow onset Did not take insulin Ate more than usual Recent illness or infection Frequent urination Thirsty, drinking a lot Tiredness Weight loss Vomiting
Physical exam	Shaky, jittery hand and arm movements	Abdominal pain Signs of dehydration
Actions	Give high-concentration oxygen. Give oral glucose IF patient can swallow normally; if not, call for ALS backup; transport for further evaluation	Give high-concentration oxygen; transport promptly; call for ALS backup if child has poor perfusion and altered mental status